

Director's Corner

I am continually impressed by the great work being done throughout the state by practitioners in our one-stop system. Scarce resources mean that we all must continually find ways to do our jobs better, smarter, and with greater use of technology.

Our system's network of SKIES trainers is an example of this. This group is pulling together to make sure our state's SKIES users have the knowledge and skill needed to best record our important work with our customers, so that that our federal reporting accurately reflects how we do business.

Joanie Linder, our SKIES lead trainer, has resurrected the monthly teleconferences with trainers across the state to ensure everyone is on the same page, has what they need, and has a forum to talk about challenges and best practices. Meanwhile, she facilitated a SKIES Read-only refresher training this week in Lacey for central office staff, and has train-the-trainers scheduled later this summer both east and west of the mountains.

~Sandy Miller

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Moves Forward

House and Senate leaders introduced Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the product of months of negotiations between a bipartisan and bicameral of members and heir-apparent to the current Workforce Investment Act, which has been in law since in 1998 and sustained for more than ten years after expiring through continuing resolutions. WIOA reflects a compromise between the SKILLS Act (H.R. 803), which was passed by the House of Representatives in March 2013 and the Workforce Investment Act of 2013 (S. 1356), which passed in the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. The bill will now be considered first by the House and then by the Senate. You can learn more about WIOA by consulting the following on-line information in the form of a [one-page summary](#), [section-by-section summary](#), or [full text of the WIOA](#).

Job-driven NEG Grant Application Submitted

Washington recently submitted a \$6,000,000 funding request to the U.S. Department of Labor for the Job-Driven National Emergency Grant (NEG). The Job-Driven NEG targets WIA Dislocated Worker program eligible individuals who are also long-term unemployed (27 or more weeks of unemployment), those profiled as likely to exhaust Unemployment Insurance benefits, or foreign-trained workers facing barriers to employment in their trained field with the goal of re-employing them in demand sectors through core, intensive and support services; attainment of industry-recognized credentials and certificates; and work-based training opportunities (e.g., apprenticeship/pre-apprenticeship, on-the-job training, customized training, career pathway programs, accelerated learning, etc.). Washington proposed in its application to enroll and serve 1,280 participants with virtually all receiving enhanced core, intensive and supportive services and 915 further engaged in work-based training. The services would be delivered regionally through Workforce Development Councils and their employer, one-stop, and community partnerships. DOL will announce state awards in June and funds, if awarded, will be effective from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016.



Shared Work Promote and Enroll Grant Marketing

Employment Security's Unemployment Insurance division and Office of Communications are teaming up on a system campaign to get the word out about the Shared Work Promote and Enroll Grant. That campaign will include reaching out to local business and employer engagement staff in Workforce Development Councils and WorkSource Centers for collaboration and assistance with streaming videos, brochures, and other marketing and promotional materials.

WIA Dislocated Worker Mitigation Announced

Employment Security is distributing \$1.1 million in PY13 Rapid Response Additional Assistance (RRAA) funds by local formula to serve as mitigation funding to Workforce Development Councils for their WIA Title I-B Dislocated Worker programs. This action, when combined with pending action on local event-driven requests for RRAA funds, effectively obligates all current RRAA funds. The state will soon receive new state-level Rapid Response funding in the form of \$678,684 in PY14 funding that becomes available on July 1, 2014 and the \$4.1 million in FY15 funding that becomes available on October 1, 2014.

Washington Service Corps to Serve Vulnerable Youths

Washington Service Corps received confirmation this spring from DSHS about their interest to continue funding AmeriCorps positions to serve disadvantaged youth populations through Washington's Workforce Development Councils. As a result of the ESD/DSHS – Washington Service Corps Partnership, nine Workforce Development Councils agreed to host nineteen Washington Service Corps AmeriCorps members this upcoming year as a means to strengthen services for disadvantaged youth, including incarcerated youth, youth who have dropped out of high school, economically disadvantaged TANF youth, and other vulnerable populations. These AmeriCorps members will be directed to serve within some of the most dynamic youth-serving programs throughout the state to provide mentoring, workplace skills training, high school graduation coaching and career exploration. This project, now entering into its second year, will build upon the initial work done to develop, enhance and increase the service capacity of youth programs, as well as expanding the focus to include Financial Literacy and Workplace Readiness Training. Since September 2013, the Youth Project has delivered positive, tangible results and anticipates by program year end to provide job training services to at least 1,100 disadvantaged youth, many of whom will graduate from high school, acquire GEDs, be placed into jobs and enter into post-secondary institutions.

New Policy Guidance

None this month.

June 2014 Featured Events

**UI Tax/Wage and
Benefits Overview for
WCDD Staff:**
June 2nd & 6th

**Online Event Calendar
Editor Training:**
June 10th

**How to Connect
Customers to the Free
Microsoft IT Academy:**
June 24th & 26th

SKIES Train the Trainer:
June 25-26

[Staff Development Calendar](#)



Send us your feedback!

We want this newsletter to reflect our system and welcome your suggestions for future articles. Let us know what you'd like to see! Send us an e-mail (ESDGPWCDDTST@esd.wa.gov).